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*Personnel  
(3)*

*Cross Ref. Repts 3*

DCI/IC-75-0626  
1 July 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: AD/DCI/IC  
D/DCI/IC

SUBJECT : Action on DCID 1/18 on National Intelligence  
Medals

1. Decision is needed from you on two matters; one to complete action on the proposed DCID 1/18, "Recognition of Exceptional Service to the U.S. Intelligence Community," and the other relating to the required funding.

2. The problem on DCID 1/18 is the title of one of the medals.

a. The draft DCID 1/18 which went to the USIB listed three awards:

- National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal
- National Intelligence Medal of Merit
- Intelligence Community Certificate of Distinction

b. The only objection raised to any of the awards during the USIB review was by CIA, which considered the "National Intelligence Medal of Merit" was too much like the CIA "Medal of Merit." CIA proposed the title be changed to the "National Intelligence Meritorious Service Medal."

c. An alternative proposed by IC to the DCI was "National Intelligence Order of Merit," but Mr. Colby returned this with the comment: "Order?" The question of the legality of use of the word "Order" was referred to the General Counsel. The GC saw no legal problem, but suggested "award" or "medal" would be more appropriate.

d. In my view, decision on this matter hinges on the proposed level of the award.

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(1) The "National Intelligence Medal of Merit" conveys by its title the concept that it is meant to be an award comparable to the "Legion of Merit" of the military services. As you know, the "Legion of Merit" is not an award frequently approved in peacetime, and it is presented to junior officers only in quite exceptional cases. I assume a "National Intelligence Medal of Merit" would be awarded only in recognition of exceptional achievement, and not in recognition of a commendable tour of duty on the Intelligence Community Staff. The "Intelligence Community Certificate of Distinction" would serve this latter purpose.

(2) On the other hand, a "National Intelligence Meritorious Service Medal" could be viewed as comparable to the "Meritorious Service Medal" of the military services, which is a full cut below the Legion of Merit. The criteria for award of the military "Meritorious Service Medal" is as follows:

"Awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who distinguishes himself by outstanding meritorious achievement or service to the United States. To justify this decoration, the acts or services rendered by an individual, regardless of grade, must have been comparable to that required for the Legion of Merit, but in a duty of lesser responsibility. The Meritorious Service Medal is the counterpart of the Bronze Star Medal for the recognition of meritorious noncombat service."

e. It could be expected a "National Intelligence Meritorious Service Medal" would be awarded to considerably more persons than would be the case for a "National Intelligence Medal of Merit."

f. Depending on the level for which you consider the second ranking national intelligence medal is most appropriate, I suggest you approve amending DCID 1/18 with one of the following:

--"National Intelligence Medal of Achievement," which would eliminate the CIA objection of use of the "Medal of Merit" phrase, and still could be considered comparable to the "Legion of Merit."

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--"National Intelligence Meritorious Service Medal," as suggested by CIA.

g. Since I consider that the "Intelligence Community Certificate of Distinction" would be awarded for services roughly comparable to those for which the military would award the "Meritorious Service Medal," I do not favor a "meritorious service" award.

h. I see considerable merit, however, in establishment of a "National Intelligence Medal of Achievement." The military "Legion of Merit" has as its primary criterion "outstandingly meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services," but the Army includes "significant achievement" and the Navy has "degree of achievement" among its criteria for a Legion of Merit.

3. The potential funding problem arises from a 17 June letter from the Director of the Army's Institute of Heraldry. In earlier discussions, Captain Lucas had been advised the expected costs would be about \$5,000 and a check indicated this sum was available. As indicated in the 17 June letter, the Institute now estimates the cost at \$12,500, including 50 sample prototypes of each item (regular and miniature size medals, ribbons, lapel emblems (both ribbon bars for military officers and miniature medals for civilians) and cases.

a. One way of reducing this cost would be to opt for only 25 of the Distinguished Service Medals in the original order, since I consider it quite unlikely these would be awarded to any sizeable number of persons.

b. Another way of reducing costs would be to inform the Institute of Heraldry we were not interested in development of medals which are complex and difficult to manufacture. The military Distinguished Service Medals are very expensive to manufacture because of the intricate enamelling. The same is true for the Legion of Merit medals. The CIA medals, on the other hand, are much more simple to manufacture and probably are far less costly than the DSMs and LMs of the military services. I suspect that the latest Institute cost estimate is based on the idea of producing medals as intricate as the DSMs and LMs.

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c. Once the names of the national intelligence medals have been finally approved by the DCI, I suggest Captain Lucas contact Colonel Spitter, Director of the Institute of Heraldry, and if necessary arrange a meeting with you to ensure that he and we have a clear idea as to how simple or intricate we want the medals to be and obtain an indication as to how much this will affect the estimated cost of the project.

4. It is recommended that you:

a. Approve amendment of DCID 1/18 to include provision for a "National Intelligence Medal of Achievement" in lieu of the "National Intelligence Medal of Merit." Once Mr. Colby has approved this title, he can so advise the USIB.

b. Instruct me to proceed with further arrangements with Colonel Spitter concerning a satisfactory compromise of medal intricacy and project costs, with a view to getting the present estimate of \$12,500 down well below \$10,000.

1-1  
[Redacted]  
Major General, USAF (Ret.)  
Chief, Coordination Staff, ICS

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Distribution:

- 1 - Each Adsee.
- 1 - CS/ICS Subject
- 1 - CS/ICS Chrono
- 1 - [Redacted] Chrono
- 1 - IC Registry

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DCI/ICS/CS, [Redacted]  
(1 July 1975)

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3					
4	D/DCI/IC, 7D59 Hqs.				
5					
6					
ACTION		DIRECT REPLY		PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL		DISPATCH		RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT		FILE		RETURN	
CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION		SIGNATURE	
Remarks:					
<p>Subject: Action on DCID 1/18 on National Intelligence Medals</p> <p><i>Recommendations 4a + 4b</i></p> <p><i>approved - Thaux-</i></p> <p><i>[Signature] 7-24-75</i></p>					
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FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.				DATE	
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IC

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Routing Slip

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Let's chat -  
Do we need 3?

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## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Honor and Merit Awards for Service to the Intelligence Community

FROM:

Chief, Coordination Staff, ICS  
7E19 Headquarters

EXTENSION

NO.

DCI/IC-75-0527

DATE

28 February 1975

25X

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S  
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

EO/ICS  
7E13 Hqs.

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

2/28

M

2.

3.

AD/DCI/IC  
7E09 Hqs.

4.

5.

D/DCI/IC  
7D59 Hqs.

6.

*SECRETARY: Pls include Director  
of Personnel's 26 Feb memo to me in  
memorial going to Del.*

7.

DCI  
7E12 Hqs.

3/3

8.

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COORDINATION

*Believe this does it.*

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SIGNATURE

APPROVAL

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